

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 INT-05 DLOS-06 SAL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3105

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: NEW FISHERIES ADVISORY GROUP

REFS: (A) STATE 250771; (B) TOKYO A-325, SEPT. 28, 1976

1. NAMES AND POSITIONS OF ADVISORY GROUP CONTAINED IN REF AIRGRAM. EXCEPT FOR SUEHIRO, A FISHERIES SCIENTIST, AND KAMENAGA (WHO IS OPPOSED TO A UNILATERAL ASSERTION OF U.S. JURISDICTION OVER A 200-MILE LIMIT), GROUP MEMBERS HAVE NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH FISHERY PROBLEMS. INDEED, IN ORDER TO DRAW MEMBERS FROM AS WIDE A CIRCLE AS POSSIBLE, LACK OF EXPERIENCE MAY HAVE BEEN A PREREQUISITE FOR SELECTION.

2. REF AIRGRAM CONTAINS SOME INFO ON THE VIEWS OF PROF. TOHATA WHO CHAIRED THE GROUP'S FIRST MEETING AND APPARENTLY REFLECTED A TENTATIVE CONSENSUS IN A PRESS STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT PERHAPS JAPAN SHOULD RECOGNIZE BOTH A 12-MILE TERRITORIAL AND A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.

3. EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER DETAILS ON THE VIEWS OF EACH OF THE GROUP MEMBERS ON THE 200-MILE ZONE OR JAPANESE PROTEIN POLICY. EXCEPT FOR KAMENAGA WE DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE ANY SETTLED OPINIONS. WE HESITATE

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TO APPROACH MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY BECAUSE OUR QUESTIONS

ARE LIKELY TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD, ESPECIALLY WHEN
DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS ARE
UNDERWAY.

4. WE WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF A
MINISTER'S ADVISORY GROUP IS A COMMON PRACTICE IN
JAPAN. THE OBJECTIVE OF SUCH MEASURES IS NOT ONLY
TO GATHER ADVICE FROM A BROADER SPECTRUM OF OPINION
THAN THAT OFFERED BY THE BUREAUCRACY, BUT TO PROVIDE
A CHANNEL FOR EXPLAINING GOVERNMENT VIEWS TO OPINION
LEADERS AND TO SHARE SOME OF THE BURDEN OF UNPOPULAR
GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AS WELL. SINCE JAPAN IS HEADING
FOR SOME PAINFUL AND COSTLY ADJUSTMENTS TO EXTERNAL
DEMANDS IN THE FISHERIES AREA, THE CREATION OF A
MINISTER'S ADVISORY GROUP IS NOT AT ALL UNEXPECTED.
HODGSON

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